Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03515 271112Z
ACTION NODS-00

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TAGS: OVIP (BREZEZINSKI: TRIP TO PRC, JAPAN AND ROK

SUBJECT: BREZEZINSKI: TRIP TO PRC, JAPAN AND ROK

REF: STATE 106023

1. I BELIEVE THAT VISIT BY DR. BREZEZINSKI AT THIS POINT IN TIME CAN HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROKG. TIMING FOR VISIT SHOULD ALLOW US OPPORTUNITY TO ATTAIN PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF MEASURED CONSULTATION. AS EMBASSY HAS POINTED OUT OVER PAST MONTHS IN ITS REPORTING, PRESENT MOOD IN KOREA IS ONE OF UN-CERTAINITY OVER CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE COURSE OF U.S./ROK RELATIONS. WITH NEED TO BRING HOME TO KOREANS, FROM THE PRESIDENT ON DOWN, THE STRENGTH OF U.S. COMMITMENT AND THE PLACE OF KOREA IN U.S. GLOBAL THINKING, THE FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTIONS FOR AREAS OF EMPHASIS DURING DR. BREZEZINSKI'S MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER KOREAN LEADERS.

2. CHINA TALKS: COMING AS HE WILL FROM TALKS IN PEKING, THE FIRST ORDER OF ATTENTION WILL FOCUS ON THE CONTENT AND RESULTS OF DR. BRZEZINSKI'S TALKS IN THE PRC. IN THIS RESPECT, I RECOMMEND THAT
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03515 271112Z

DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING INCLUDE MEANINGFUL REFERENCE TO KOREA AND PARTICULARLY THE NEED TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND SPECIFICALLY ALONG THE DMZ. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE STATE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS IS CRUCIAL TO THE STABILITY IN EAST ASIA AND TO THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE MAJOR POWERS WITH MAJOR INTERESTS IN THE PENINSULA. WHILE WE REALIZE THE STANDARD CHINESE RESPONSE TO SUCH OVERTURES HAS BEEN TO SAY THAT THE PROBLEMS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

OF KOREA MUST BE SOLVED BY THE KOREANS, IT MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE STEPS TO REDUCE TENSIONS EVEN IN THAT NARROW FRAMEWORK, GIVEN PRC ROLE IN MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION. NOT ONLY MIGHT WE GAIN INSIGHTS INTO CHINESE THINKING ON THIS MATTER, BUT THE WILLINGNESS OF THE U.S. TO RAISE THE ISSUE IN PEKING, DESPITE THE APPARENT CHINESE PREFERENCE NOT TO DISCUSS IT, WILL HAVE AN IMPACT HERE THAT WILL BE FAVORABLE INDEED.

3. U.S. GLOBAL POLICY: DR. BRZEZINSKI SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO REVIEW FOR PRESIDENT PARK THE CURRENT BASIC TENETS OF U.S. GLOBAL POLICY. IN THIS RESPECT IT WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DEFINE CLEARLY THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT ASIA, IN PARTICULAR NORTHWEST ASIA, PLAYS IN THAT POLICY. A GOOD DEAL OF KOREAN CONCERN OF LATE HAS FOCUSED ON WHAT HAS BEEN PERCEIVED AS A FURTHER SHIFT TOWARDS EUROPE IN U.S. POLICY PRIORITIES WHICH WERE EVEN BEFORE THAT TIME SEEN AS OVERLY EUROPE-ORIENTED. THROUGH DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT PARK, DR. BRZEZINSKI CAN DO A GOOD DEAL TO DISPEL SUCH CONCERN.

4. BILATERAL RELATIONS: DR. BRZEZINSKI WILL HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A POSITIVE THRUST TO WHAT THE EMBASSY VIEWS AS A NEEDED LONG-TERM EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE TONE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE ROK. RECENT SERIOUS TENSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE ROK -- SOME TRANSITORY SUCH AS PORTER ON BUGGING AND PING-PONG DIPLOM ACY
AND SOME MORE FUNDAMENTAL SUCH AS DEEP CONCERN OVER U.S. MOTIVES IN CONNECTION WITH THE TITO PROPOSAL FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS -- HAVE
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GREATLY UNSETTLED THE MOOD IN KOREA. DR. BRZEZINSKI, BY LINING OUT CLEARLY THE IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. OF THE ROK AND OF A SOUND RELATION
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SHIP AND BY EMPHASIZING THE LONG-TERM NATURE OF OUR THINKING AND HENC
E
OUR COMMITMENT, CAN HELP GREATLY TO PUT THE RELATIONSHIP BACK INTO A CLEARER PERSPECTIVE. HE MIGHT ALSO WISH TO STRESS THE MEASURED AND CAREFUL MANNER IN WHICH THE U.S. IS DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF TROO
P
WITHDRAWAL. THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT DECISION TO SOW THE PROCESS OFFERS THE IDEAL STARTING POINT FOR SUCH AN APPROACH. IN PARTICULAR, I BELIEVE THAT DR. BRZEZINSKI SHOULD LAY AS MUCH STRESS AS POSSIBLE ON THE NEED FOR FULL CONSULTATION ON WHAT MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED IN NEGOTIA
-
TIONS WITH THE NORTH. IT IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE THAT WE BRING THE ROK TO THE STAGE WHERE IT CAN RESIST THE KNEE-JERK REACTION, SUCH AS THAT WHICH HAS CUASED SO MUCH CONFUSION OVER THE TRILATERAL TALK ISSU
E,
AND CAN ENGAGE IN A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BEFORE TAKING PUBLIC POSITIONS.

5. I HAVE TRIED TO SUGGEST BROAD THEMES WHICH DR. BRZEZINSKI MIGHT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

ADDRESS DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK. I WOULD ALSO HOPE TO ARRANGE ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL CALLS FOR HIM, E.G. THE FOREIGN MINISTER,
AND TO HOST A DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE FOR LEADING FIGURES ON THE ONE EVENING HE WILL BE IN SEOUL.
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20 Mar 2014
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